

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 NEAE-00 AGR-20 SPM-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 EUR-25 EA-11 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

INRE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-08 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 OMB-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 IGA-02 /170 W

----- 112970

O R 171244Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 502

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6659

DEPT FOR SISCO (NEA)

AID PASS TO FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ SWELL, PK

SUBJECT: FLOOD RELIEF FOR PAKISTAN

REFS: 1) STATE 162898

2) ISLAMABAD 6639

3) ISLAMABAD 6578

SUMMARY: CURRENT FLOODS CONSTITUTE DISASTER OF SERIOUS
PROPORTIONS FOR PAKISTAN. TRUE DIMENSIONS OF DAMAGE
REMAIN TO BE DETERMINED AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE KNOWN
UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER WATERS RECEDE. OUR ASSESSMENT OF
SITUATION, BASED ON EYE-WITNESS SURVEY AND CONVERSATIONS
WITH LEADING GOP OFFICIALS, INDICATES NEED FOR URGENT
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RELIEF ACTIONS EVEN PENDING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TRUE

DIMENSIONS OF DISASTER. AS FIRST STEPS, WE RECOMMEND THAT USG: (A) PROVIDE 50 SMALL RESCUE BOATS, POSSIBLY RUBBER INFLATABLE AND/OR ALUMINUM, EQUIPPED WITH SUITABLE MOTORS. (B) INVESTIGATE, ON CONTINGENT BASIS, ABILITY PROVIDE MEDIUM SIZE HELICOPTERS TO BE USED FOR CARRYING SUPPLIES AND WHERE APPLICABLE TO MOVE PEOPLE. (C) WHEAT: ANNOUNCE ALLOCATION OF AT LEAST 300,000 TONS PL-480, TITLE I; (D) VEGETABLE OIL: ANNOUNCE WILLINGNESS TO ALSO PROVIDE 30,000 TONS EDIBLE OIL UNDER PL-480, TITLE I. END SUMMARY

1. BOATS: FLOOD WATERS MOVING TOWARD SIND PROVINCE WHERE GOP ESTIMATES PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN PUNJAB WILL OCCUR. BELIEVE BOATS WILL FACILITATE MOVEMENT SUPPLIES AND PEOPLE NOW NOT REACHABLE BY OTHER MEANS. GOP FINMIN MUBASHIR HASAN, WHO IS COORDINATING RELIEF OPERATIONS, ESTIMATES WATERS WILL RECEDE SLOWLY AND BOATS CAN SERVE MULTIPLICITY OF PURPOSES. WE RECOMMEND USG PROVIDE 50 BOATS CAPABLE 1-2 TON LOAD WITH SUITABLE OUTBOARD MOTOR. BOATS SHOULD BE HEAVY RUBBER INFLATABLE TYPE OR ALUMINUM. WOULD HOPE THESE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN 4-5 DAYS. PROBABLY WILL NEED PROVIDE SOME PERSONNEL TO ORIENT LOCAL OPERATORS ON EQUIPMENT AND TO HELP WITH MAINTENANCE. (GOP ESTIMATES OVERALL REQUIREMENT FOR 120 BOATS.)

2. HELICOPTERS: GOP STATES 6 LARGE SIZE XOPTERS NEEDED, BUT NOT CLEAR ON WHO WOULD COORDINATE USE, WHERE THEY WOULD LOCATE AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT THEY WOULD DO. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. MEANWHILE, WE WISH KNOW POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF MEDIUM SIZE COPTERS CAPABLE CARRYING APPROXIMATELY 2-TON LOAD AND WHICH COULD BE SHIPPED QUICKLY BY CARGO PLANE, SHOULD OUR ANALYSIS CONFIRM NEED. WE SEE NO PROBLEM FUEL AVAILABILITY. FYI: GOSS UNDP LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS THAT HE HAS SUGGESTED GOP CONSIDER APPROACHING GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR COPTER CONTRIBUTIONS. WE WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON THIS. END FYI.

3. WHEAT: WE INFORMED BY FOOD DEPT THAT PART OF ESTIMATED ONE MILLION TONS FOODGRAINS DESTROYED, CAME FROM GOP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCURED STOCKS. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT GOP CAN DIVERT FROM OTHER STOCKS TO HANDLE IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS. THEIR CONCERN IS REPLACEMENT. IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF USG COULD NOW ANNOUNCE POSITIVE DECISION ON FUTURE SHIPMENTS. ANNOUNCEMENT NOW OF USG RESERVATION OF MINIMUM 300,000 METRIC TONS WHEAT FOR SALE UNDER PL-480, TITLE I WOULD ASSURE GOP OF HELP ON AT LEAST PARTIAL REPLACEMENT ITS STOCKS AND HELP KEEP PRICES DOWN.

SHIPMENT NOT NECESSARY BEFORE SECOND QUARTER.
WE SHALL KEEP GRAIN NEEDS UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW AND WILL,
IF WE BELIEVE JUSTIFIED, FOLLOW WITH FURTHER RECOMMENDA-
TION FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER TITLE I AND/OR TITLE II.

4. VEGETABLE OIL: ACCORDING TO JUNE 7 USDA FATS AND OILS DIV. RELEASE, ESTIMATED PURCHASES THROUGH JUNE 6 AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 20,500 M/T UNDER TITLE I. OF THIS AMOUNT WE UNDERSTAND AS OF JULY 5, FROM SHIPPING DOCUMENTS IN OUR POSSESSION, 14,700 M/T WERE IN ROUTE PRIOR END OF JUNE. GOP OFFICIALS REPORTED ANOTHER 12,100 M/T OIL WERE SCHEDULED DEPART US JUNE 30 ON S.S. KAAPHORN. WE UNDERSTAND 4,400 M/T UNDER CASH TENDER BY GOP ALSO ON SAME VESSEL AND ANOTHER 5,400 M/T CONTRACTED FOR BY TRADING CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN WAS SCHEDULED FOR SHIPMENT FROM US ON S.S. STOLT YANGAS JULY 31. WHILE EDIBLE OIL IN SHORT SUPPLY HERE, WE FEEL SHIPMENTS INDICATED ABOVE ARE SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS. ASSUME JUNE 30 SHIPMENT ABOUT DUE REACH PORT. WE ARE CHECKING WITH OUR SOURCES TO SEE IF SHIPMENT HAS ARRIVED. HOWEVER, FLOODS WILL AGGRAVATE SUPPLY SITUATION LATER THIS YEAR. HENCE RECOMMEND WE MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT NOW USG RESERVING 30,000 M/T FOR SALE TO PAKISTAN UNDER PL-480, TITLE I.

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5. CANAL DAMAGE: FINMIN HASAN TELEPHONED CHARGE MORNING AUG 17 FROM LAHORE TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN NOT ONLY FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF HELP BUT OVER EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO IRRIGATION CANALS FROM FLOOD WATERS. HE POINTED OUT NECESSITY TO REPAIR CANALS ASAP TO INSURE THAT IRRIGATION WATER REACHES CROP LAND IN TIME FOR FALL PLANTING AND THUS INSURE CONTINUED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. CANAL SYSTEM IS VITAL. MINFIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MACHINERY AVAILABLE FROM TARBELA ON RENTAL COULD BE USED ON CANAL REPAIRS BUT GOP NEEDS FOREIGN EXCHANGE. HE WENT ON TO SAY US RUPEES DID NOT REALLY REPRESENT NEW RESOURCE TO PAKISTAN. CHARGE SAID WE DEEPLY SYMPATHETIC AND WILL BE EXAMINING URGENTLY WHAT WE COULD DO TO HELP ON THIS AND OTHER NEEDS. MISSION WILL MAKE ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDA-
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TIONS ON THIS ITEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. OTHER: WE HAVE AGREED TO UNICEF DIVERSION 2,250,000 IBS. WHEAT, SOYA BLEND FOR EMERGENCY FEEDING OF FLOOD VICTIMS. UNICEF HAS OFFERED \$100,000 WORTH OF MEDICINE NOW IN LOCAL STORAGE FACILITY. GOP DEVELOPING UPDATED AIDE MDMOIRE TODAY BASED ON SUGGESTION BY GOSS THAT IT CONCENTRATE ON IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS. WILL REPORT SAME WHEN RECEIVED. WFP CURRENTLY HAS 29,000 TONS WHEAT (ALL USG CONTRIBUTION) IN COUNTRY OF WHICH 16,000 TONS JUST ARRIVED KARACHI. IF GOP DESIRES TO DIVERT WFP WHEAT FOR EMERGENCY FEEDING FLOOD VICTIMS, REQUEST MISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE AND COMMIT USG TO REPLENISH WFP STOCKS. WE STILL DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT REQUIREMENTS TO SUGGEST ADDITIONAL TITLE II ASSISTANCE BUT DO NOT RULE THIS OR OTHER POSSIBLE USG ASSISTANCE OUT FOR FUTURE REHABILITATION ACTIVITY.

7. ABOVE REPRESENTS ADMITTEDLY HASTY ASSESSMENT OF SOME URGENT NEEDS AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS SITUATION AND NEEDS CLARIFY.

DECONTROL JUNE 30, 1974. SOBER

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